

Eli Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Why did the LORD answer Eli's prayer?

What should have been Eli's response to Hannah?

Why do you suppose he failed to discipline his sons?

Is it reasonable that he had set a bad example thinking it was not a big deal?

Have you, if a parent, set a bad example for your children (or if not a parent set a bad example for children whom you influence?)

What should our effect on the next generation have on our attention to our own behavior?

How did Hannah's faith influence Eli?

On a human level did it look like a bad decision to entrust your child to a failed parent?

What was the LORD up to in this scenario?

How did young Samuel's telling the truth to Eli influence his future ministry?

What were the elders of Israel doing when they called for the Ark of the Covenant to be brought into the battle against the Philistines?

What was the purpose of the Ark?

What were they using it for?

Does that sort of thing happen in our day?

Did Eli, trained as a priest, know the truth about God?

Did he live in accordance with what he knew?

Is it likely that his sons knew the LORD?

What effect did the death of the priests and loss of the Ark have on the nation of Israel?

How did the LORD finally bring glory back to his name? (See the Priest of Dagon.)

